



THE Macdonald Farm Journal

VOLUME 15 No. 8

APRIL 1955

F A R M . S C H O O L . H O M E



MACDONALD COLLEGE

celebrates its fiftieth anniversary . . .

Some of the major events will be . . .

Friday, June 3rd Graduation Exercises, School for Teachers,
from 2.00 p.m. Homemakers, Handicrafts students.

Special McGill Convocation on the campus.

Garden Party, Buffet Supper, Class Reunions.

Saturday, June 4th Symposium — THE NEXT FIFTY YEARS.

MORNING

Speakers:

Sir Phillip Morris, Vice-Chancellor, Bristol University;
Prof. J. M. Galbraith, Harvard University economist;
Dr. K. W. Neatby, Director, Science Service, Ottawa.
Principal James, *Chairman*.

AFTERNOON

Tours of farm, campus and Arboretum; exhibits and displays.
Barbecue.

EVENING

Dance.

Saturday, June 25th Annual Meeting, Quebec Farm Forums.

Farm Day: displays and exhibits.

All former students are reminded that if they wish to attend the functions planned for June 3rd and 4th, their advance registration forms must be received at the College by May 10th. Any who have not received a form in the mail should write for one immediately to The Secretary, Semi-Centenary Committee, Macdonald College, Que.

All friends of the College are welcome to visit the displays and tour the College properties on either Saturday afternoon, June 4th or June 25th.

The National Character of the Dairy Industry

The dairy industry of Quebec is making adjustments to a new situation. This process must continue. How the problems should be met is a matter of high controversy. Only with goodwill and enlightenment on all sides will workable solutions be found.

There are two general truths upon which workable solutions must be based. The first is that it is impossible to stabilize the incomes of farmers at a desirable level during a time of general depression. In other words, a requirement for the profitable dairy industry for Quebec is a healthy and progressive Canadian economy. This is true in the double sense that the prosperity of the agricultural industry is dependent on general economic prosperity and that the prosperity of Quebec is linked to Canadian prosperity.

The second basic truth is that the welfare of each section of the dairy industry is hitched to that of other sections, whether they like it or not. This is because of three economic facts:

- (1) dairy products compete to some extent with each other for the consumer's dollar;
- (2) dairy products also have to compete with some non-dairy substitutes in the consumer's budget;
- (3) dairy-product producing areas compete with each other for markets.

The quantity of food consumed per capita is fairly constant over the decades. It is quality and (above all) convenience that are now in demand. Since dairy products are, within limits, substitutable nutritionally for each other, the modern crave for convenience increasingly influences the consumer's choice between them.

Consumer incomes are rising, but the variety of

consumer wants is forging ahead of incomes. This means that the dairy industry faces stiff "outside" competition for the consumer's dollar. Thus economy as well as convenience is a major consideration in the consumer's choice between various dairy products and between dairy products and non-dairy substitutes.

Processed milk products can be stored and transported economically. Because milk products are so transportable and storable, the welfare of the various dairy-producing regions in Canada are linked with each other. The increased durability and palatability of processed milk products vastly expands the extent of their potential market. Each producing region competes for markets at home and abroad. Our dairy industry has become, in fact, a national and international industry. Regional producing strongholds or market sanctuaries are tending to disappear.

Sight must never be lost of the central fact that all dairy products have a single common denominator—raw milk. Any economic change that increases the demand for raw milk will benefit some dairy farmers and do no harm to the rest. But an increase in the demand for a particular dairy product may or may not increase the total demand for raw milk. The outcome depends on whether some other dairy product has been displaced thereby.

The major economic problems facing the dairy industry, or any particular branch of the industry, can only be solved within a *national* context because the dairy products themselves and the dairy regions of Canada are becoming increasingly competitive. Solutions to the problem which attempt to isolate the Quebec dairy industry from the rest of Canada, or solutions which tend to regionalize Quebec, can scarcely succeed.

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Grass Silage

... Has it a place on your farm?

In this article, three Macdonald College staff members discuss grass silage — its feeding value — its place in a grass-land program — harvesting methods and storage.

OUR part of Eastern Canada is well-suited to the production of grasses and clovers. Rainfall is usually adequate and summer temperatures generally moderate. However all too often rainy conditions in June make it practically impossible to harvest good quality hay. It would be more accurate to state that our conditions are best-suited to pasture production.

Barn finishing, stem-crushing to speed up field curing, and mechanical dehydration, make it possible to beat the weather and produce better quality hay. Of course these methods raise costs. The stem-crusher would help field curing of a heavy high legume hay crop and may be the most useful aid to traditional haying methods. Present costs of dehydration, which involves immediate drying with artificial heat (up to 500°F), is prohibitive except for production of alfalfa meal and other specialties. Barn finishing requires a high investment for mow slats, ducts, and fans. Handling costs of the partly dried hay are high.

Pasture is recognized as the most convenient, economical, and nutritionally balanced roughage feed. Under lush pasture condition, maximum amounts of roughage nutrients are available and less protein, mineral, or vitamin supplement is required. If we had pasture the year around as in New Zealand, we could reduce our costs.

Our problem is that we must depend on harvested roughage for 6 to 7 months of the year. Hay in our part of the country is a risky crop, and corn silage is costly to produce in many areas. It may be that grass silage is the best way to obtain a low-cost, high quality winter roughage feed fairly close to good pasture in feeding value.

Feeding Value of Grass Silage

Most farmers find the ideal cutting time for hay coincides with poor curing weather. Haying is often delayed. As the hay crop matures in the field the percentage of leaves and fine stems goes down and the percentage of large stems goes up. A hay crop in full bloom will be 70 percent coarse stems.



This maturity in itself represents a tremendous loss as three-quarters of the feeding value of forage is found in the leaves. Also broken leaves and fine stems resulting when hay is too dry represents an average loss of 20 percent. As cutting approaches time of maturity, this loss from breakage becomes much higher. Rain will wash out as much as 65 percent of the minerals, 35 percent of the carbohydrate and 18 percent of the protein from the hay during curing.

These losses from delayed cutting, broken leaves and stems, and leaching if rained on are serious in themselves. Another fact to keep in mind is that little fibre is lost in the process so there is an increased proportion of this substance which decreases feeding value.

You gain in four ways by making grass silage!

- (1) Provide a succulent protein roughage feed that can be easily and economically produced on Quebec farms.
- (2) The hay crop cut for silage 2 to 3 weeks before normal hay stage will have a much higher proportion of leaves and be much closer to lush pasture in feed value.
- (3) If properly ensiled, a larger proportion of the nutrients present in the standing crop will be saved than if made into hay.
- (4) You do not have to delay harvest if weather is bad. You can avoid loss in feeding value due to crop maturity or poor curing weather.

The Problem of Quality

Production of good quality grass silage is more difficult than for corn. Corn is ideal as it is high in starches and sugars, and low in protein and calcium. Clovers, on the other hand, are low in starches and sugars, and higher in protein and calcium. The fermentation process in the silo to produce acid is reduced when immature grass and clover is ensiled.

* Material used in this article based on notes supplied by:

Prof. L. Lloyd — Nutrition Dept.
 Prof. H. Steppeler — Agronomy Dept.
 Prof. A. Banting — Ag. Engineering Dept.

Water content of the green, unensiled crop is very important in grass silage quality. If the crop contains less than 50 percent moisture, it will not pack well and mold pockets will develop. Above 70 percent water content, risk of poor quality silage is increased. Above 80 percent water, poor quality is almost a certainty if nothing is done about it. Forage crops in early June, the time for silage making and the time when they are most nutritious, will usually contain 70 to 80 percent moisture.

Wilting the crop after cutting will reduce moisture but is practicable only in special circumstances and under ideal conditions. The use of preservatives and conditioners that absorb excess moisture is the best insurance of good quality silage.

Beet pulp, chopped hay, and ground grain are conditioners that will absorb extra water. Ground grain added at a rate of 200 pounds to a ton of silage, is an excellent preservative. The ground grain also helps absorb extra moisture, adds feeding value to the silage, and is easily applied. The chemical sodium metabisulphite in powder form is also easily applied and is proving an effective preservative.

The quality of grass silage depends on the stage of cutting, degree of packing, and the moisture content. The stage of cutting consistent with high feeding value and satisfactory quantity is when red clover is showing slight bloom and timothy just coming into head. It is more difficult to control the moisture content of the resulting silage—which should be between 65 and 70 percent. Forage has to be packed to squeeze out all air to avoid spoilage from molds and induce proper fermentation.

One hundred pounds of silage containing 60 percent moisture supplies about 20 pounds of digestible nutrients, while silage containing 70 percent moisture contains 15 pounds digestible nutrients and 80 percent moisture silage provides 10 pounds. It takes about 3 pounds of 70 percent moisture grass silage to equal 1 pound of high quality mixed red clover-timothy hay. A 1000 pound cow eating 30 pounds of good mixed hay daily would require about 90 pounds of 70 percent moisture silage to get the same food energy. If the silage was 80 percent moisture it would take 135 pounds of silage to provide the same amount of food energy. This extra 45 pounds of silage would do absolutely nothing for the cow except reduce her appetite and capacity for other feed. The complaints of many dairy farmers that their herds lose weight on large amounts of grass silage can be explained almost entirely on a basis of too much moisture content.

You will readily appreciate the necessity for avoiding too much moisture in the grass silage. But experience is needed before silage of proper moisture content and good keeping quality can be produced season after season. When field wilting, forage is ready to ensile when your hands remain moist after squeezing some cut forage

tightly. If the forage is not wilted it will be more difficult to judge the moisture content. On the other hand you are better to err on the side of too much moisture and correct the situation by adding conditioners and preservative at the silo.

Grass silage made from a forage crop that has matured to a point where it can be direct-cut by a forage harvester may be of proper moisture content yet lower in quality due to the stage of maturity of the crop. If the crop becomes too dry either because of over-maturity or wilting too long, the silage is very apt to spoil. It is not possible to squeeze out the air by packing dry forage and mold pockets will develop.

Research findings indicate that by making grass silage, about 25 percent more milk per acre can be obtained than from field-cured hay. You may, however, find it difficult to induce cows to eat large quantities of grass silage unless accustomed to it as calves.

Grass Silage Harvesting and Storage

Two things prevent a lot of farmers from putting up grass silage. If regular farm equipment is used, it takes a lot of very heavy work to handle the green crop. If you wish to avoid the outlay for labour, very high investment is often required for specialized machinery.

For a dairy farmer to purchase his own forage harvester and buy such other equipment as canvas-bottom wagons, movable front wagons, dump trucks, suction or worm-gear elevators to the silo, to say nothing of costs for increased silo space, would require a very considerable investment. It will not pay to purchase such equipment on a dairy farm milking fewer than 35 to 45 cows.

However as time goes on this kind of equipment is becoming more available on a custom basis. It will pay to hire a forage harvester outfit if available at the right time or if local labour is scarce or expensive. Farmers in some districts are finding that purchase of forage equipment makes a good co-operative project for a group. This is especially true in areas where the same



The forage harvester makes silage-making easy but it is a costly investment for a small farm.

equipment is used again in the fall to harvest ensilage corn.

Using Regular Equipment

On small farms it is likely more economical, despite the heavier work and more labour involved, to put up grass silage with regular farm equipment. This would usually consist of cutting with a mower with or without a swather or windrower attachment depending on how heavy the crop is. The crop can be picked up long by a heavy-raker-bar loader, drawn to the silo, and run through a regular forage chopper-blower used for corn ensilage.

Green grass for ensilage handled in this way is going to require a lot of heavy, time-consuming work and it is not easily avoided. Green grass weighs 3 to 4 times as much as an equal volume of hay and it is going to pack on the wagon no matter how carefully you build your load. Size of load will not really make much difference to the amount of packing but it should be of course much smaller than a load of hay to avoid possible damage to the wagon. It is doubtful if trying to restrict tramping around the load will make any difference in packing on the wagon.

All too often grass plugs the ensilage cutter. Obviously the blades should be kept sharp but a less obvious cause is more important and often overlooked. The bottom housing of the chopper needs to be adjusted upwards so that the tips of the fan blades just sweep without touching. The grass tends to drag past if the tips of the blades wear off and there is considerable clearance. The grass will not be pushed up the pipe properly and you are in trouble.

Where grass silage is put up in a tower silo, it is doubtful if there would be much saving of labour by using a dump truck, smooth bottom wagon, or buck rake along with a chopper-blower. As a matter of fact



Grass silage can be put up with ordinary hay equipment, but this takes a lot of labour.

it would likely increase labour as the load would be dropped in a much more tangled condition, and would have to be forked up to the cutting box. With the ensilage cutter placed below ground level, considerable saving in labour has been reported when supplied by a hay buck rake. The load carried by each dump is small enough to be handled fairly easily at the silo.

Horizontal Silos

Where silo capacity must be built to handle grass silage, you should consider building a horizontal silo. This type of silo may be the "trench" type which is scooped out with a power shovel or bulldozer, or it may be built partly or entirely above ground with raised walls banked up with earth.

Construction costs of horizontal silos, whether they are above or below ground level, are a great deal less than for towers. They run from 50¢ to \$2.00 per ton of capacity while tower silos may cost \$10.00 to \$12.00 per ton of capacity. A very satisfactory type of horizontal silo can be constructed by the use of posts inclined at a slight angle from the vertical (one foot in six) with braces to the ground from near the top. Horizontal walers are stretched from post to post with not over 10 ft. centres. Vertical planks with the lower ends in a trench are fastened to the walers. This kind of silo can be constructed very quickly at low cost without removing a great deal of earth.

Horizontal silos can make the whole job of handling the material and feeding the silage easy and low cost. Grass can be put in long by using a dump truck, pulling loads off a smooth-bottom wagon or truck, or with a buck rake. Packing can be done with the tractor. Handwork can be reduced to a minimum yet the investment in forage machinery remains low.

Feeding out a horizontal silo, especially if the material is put in long, can be rather difficult and inconvenient in bad weather. A growing number of farmers handling grass silage in horizontal silos are adapting them to self feeding. This is a distinct advantage over tower silos which is well worth investigating.

The Place of Grass Silage In the Grassland Program

Good pasture is the cheapest and most satisfactory source of roughage feed on a livestock farm. A growing number of farmers now follow a special pasture rotation in addition to their usual crop rotation. This area set aside for pasture exclusively is generally divided into four or five sections and pastured in rotation. One section is broken up each year and reseeded to a high yielding short term pasture mixture.

Since you have to meet the grazing needs for July and August, a lot of forage may be wasted early in the season. Grass silage offers a good way to save some of this excess spring forage. One section of the short

term pasture area can be set aside and cut for grass silage early in June. The early cut for grass silage will result in abundant aftermath in most seasons. It will be ready for pasture when other pasture areas are less able to meet grazing needs.

The natural pastures found on most of our farms are productive in early spring and in the fall but go dormant in the summer. In early spring, cattle can be turned out on natural pastures to give the short term pastures time to get into production. In September when cattle should be removed, to rest the high legume pasture, the natural pastures can be grazed again. A further supplement to the short term pasture rotation is aftermath grazing of hay meadows and third year sod in the rotation set aside for pasture exclusively.

In terms of place in the rotation, the main source of grass silage is cutting one of the sections of the short-term pasture rotation. Part of a high legume hay meadow might also be cut for grass silage. This practice will provide more abundant aftermath grazing. As well it is possible to save more of a heavy legume crop than is normally possible if cut for hay.

The Importance of Grass Silage

Grass silage is most important in terms of producing home grown protein feed. Good quality grass silage, with a high content of legumes, will run about 16 percent protein (on a dry matter basis) even when you allow for losses. Farm grains in Quebec usually contain around 11 percent protein. High legume grass silage can be a farm-grown replacement, at least in part, for purchased protein feed or grain and more closely approximates pasture herbage in the winter feeding program.

Grass silage is also an alternative method of preserving the hay crop. All too often hay has to be cut very late because of poor haying weather. Early cut hay containing a high proportion of legumes may be a total loss. Grass silage is one way to overcome bad weather during haying time. Hay meadows cut for grass silage early in June will generally produce abundant aftermath grazing or

provide a second cut for hay when weather is more likely to be excellent for hay making.

Grass silage should not be considered a replacement for corn silage in areas where silage corn yields will average from 18 to 20 tons per acre. Corn silage is a high energy feed but costly to produce unless you get high yields per acre. Good grass silage is a protein feed and an excellent source of 'grass' nutrients. It can be produced easily in all parts of the province.

In areas where corn for ensilage can be produced economically, the grass silage program should be regarded as complementing, not replacing, corn. Corn and grass silage go well together in the feeding program and have separate places in the cropping system.

In marginal corn growing areas it will not pay to grow corn for ensilage. In these areas, grass silage is also the most economical source of winter succulent roughage feed that can be grown on the farm.

Climatic conditions in our part of Eastern Canada favour the production of grass. Greater attention to the grassland program on Quebec farms will pay off in lower costs of production for livestock products.

Canada's Forests a Tremendous Resource

Only Russia and Brazil have greater forested areas than does Canada. Out of a total land area of 3,610,000 square miles in Canada, 1,300,000 are forested. However, of this only about 503,000 square miles are at present classified as accessible and productive. A further 261,000 square miles, now considered inaccessible, may be regarded as a reserve for use at such time as improved facilities and additional demand make cutting economically possible.

Between 1940 and 1949 the average annual disappearance from the forests of Canada was about 3.5 billion cubic feet of usable wood. Of this, 20% was absorbed by the domestic pulp and paper industry, 33% was utilized by other forest industries, 21% was burned as fuel, 21% was destroyed by fire, insects and disease and 5% was exported in the form of logs, bolts and pulpwood.

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How Effective is your Crop Rotation?

THE basic crop rotation for a livestock farm is designed to produce high yields per acre of roughage feed. Roughage feed for winter feeding is the main "cash crop" next to summer pasture and for this reason strict attention should be paid to the crop sequence plan and management of the crop rotation.

TYPICAL CROP ROTATIONS

Crop	4 year	5 year	6 year
1. Sod	2 years	3 years	3 years
2. Silage Corn Small Grains or Grain only	1 year	1 year	1 year
3. Oats	1 year	1 year	1 year
(seeded down)			

In recent years acreage of ensilage corn and other 'hoed' crops has declined. The trend is now to plant only part of the field to 'hoed' crops the first season after breaking from the sod and to sow the balance to small grains not seeded down. In areas where ensilage corn is not adapted the whole area broken from the sod would be sown to grain. Heavy fertilizer applications are made at this stage of the rotation to produce high yields of grain and silage corn and raise the general fertility level of the soil. The kind and amount of fertilizer to apply depends on the soil type and its present fertility level. You should call on your local Agronomist (Agricultural Representative), who is familiar with local conditions, to make this kind of recommendation.

Fall ploughing after the corn crop and 1st year grain is harvested makes it possible to pulverize the soil thoroughly the following spring. This fine seed bed in the 2nd year provides the best possible conditions for the forage seedlings involved in the seeding down. You should avoid stressing grain yields at this stage as it is more important to get a good stand of forage seedlings. Sow grain lighter and do not fertilize heavily. If the stand of grain is heavy there will be too much competition for available nutrients and moisture and the forage crop will suffer from the competition. A heavy top growth of

SPRING!

... a time for developing future plans for your farm

grain will shade the young forage seedlings from light making them weak and spindly. The most common nurse crop in Quebec is oats.

The length of time the sod will remain productive depends to a large degree on the soil itself but even more important is the kind of management it receives. Red clover, the most common legume in our forage mixtures, rarely survives a second winter. Even so the sod can be maintained at a fairly high level of production for two or three years by applying manure and commercial fertilizer as a top-dressing.

In a 6-year rotation the new forage seeding might receive a top dressing of manure (fortified with a mineral fertilizer containing both phosphate and potash or superphosphate) after the oat nurse crop is harvested. This treatment would stimulate growth and provide the best insurance against winter-killing. The forage mixture will be in top production the next year and there should be enough excess nitrogen produced by the clover to keep production high in the second year of sod. In very early spring of the third year a top dressing of complete fertilizer (nitrogen, phosphate, and potash) would boost production. In the spring of the fourth year of sod a spring application of manure fortified with stable-phosphorus (superphosphate) would stimulate root and top growth and thicken up the sod. This will be fall ploughed and it is advantageous to have a heavy sod to plough down in preparation for the silage corn and grain that is to follow.

A rotation plan calls for a sequence of crops so that each crop provides for the most economical production of the next crop that will follow. For one reason or another cropping plans — even with the best of intentions — are likely to go astray. This is the time to think about your present cropping system and practices. Make sure you now have a rotation that meets your farm's needs, is adapted to the soil and climate of your region, and at the same time helps build up the fertility and productivity of your land.

What About Your Pastures?

Pastures should be regarded as the most important crop on a livestock farm. They should be given far more attention than they now receive in many parts of the province. Lush pasture is the cheapest source of nutrients for livestock. Well-managed pastures pay off in quantity and quality of herbage produced.

Different kinds of pastures have different value depending on the use made of them. Natural pastures and long-term pastures (which are broken up and reseeded only when the sward begins to revert to natural pasture)

may give the most economical returns where market values for livestock products are low. These pastures are not apt to be very productive unless there is high rainfall and plenty of fertilizer applied.

Pastures in the farm rotation are very common on farms where much of the land is tillable. In this system the 2nd, 3rd or 4th year of sod in the rotation is set aside for pasture exclusively. The sod should contain legume and be top-dressed with manure or fertilizer to stimulate production of forage. Any excess spring forage on the area set aside for pasture can be saved by cutting part of it for grass silage early in June. Early cutting of hay meadows for hay or grass silage provides for grazing that likely will be required later in the season.

Short-term rotational pastures are becoming increasingly popular on farms with high returns from livestock and where high-producing stock is the rule. Short-term pastures are much costlier to establish but are capable of highest returns. It is on this kind of specialized rotational pasture that you get carrying capacity of one mature cow per acre or even less if there is plenty of moisture.

Short-Term Pasture

A short-term pasture rotation is seeded to relatively short-lived but highly productive grasses and 'clovers'. In most cases they can be maintained in a highly productive state for about 5 years.

Generally an area close to the barn is set aside for pasture exclusively and divided into 5 sections by electric fences. Each section is grazed in rotation and clipped after the stock is moved on to the next section. To assure even growth, droppings are scattered in the late fall or early spring. Top-dressing with manure and fertilizer

helps maintain high production. During the early fall cattle are removed altogether or are allowed only limited grazing. This practice gives the 'clovers' an opportunity to build up food stores in the roots thus preventing winter-kill.

The pasture-crop rotation consists of breaking up one of the 5 sections each year. A liberal application of manure is made in the spring to the pasture section that is to be reseeded. In mid-summer the sod is broken and summer-fallowed for the balance of the season to control weeds. The following spring the section is seeded down with the pasture mixture as early as possible, with oats as a nurse crop. The area is fertilized heavily at time of seeding, with mineral fertilizer. When the nurse crop is 6 inches in height, cattle are allowed to graze it. Grazing of the section continues throughout the season at intervals each time new growth develops well.

Some typical short-term pasture mixtures for Quebec are as follows:

Species	Pounds per acre		
	No. 1	No. 2	No. 3
Timothy	8	8	8
Red Clover	4	—	4
Ladino	2	2	—
Birdsfoot	—	—	4
Totals per Acre	14	10	16

Other recommendations for short-term pastures are now being made. You should discuss the latest recommendations with your Agronome especially as your local conditions may require a different mixture for best results.

Productive high legume pasture is a 'must' for any livestock farm and even more important if the main enterprise is dairying. It may be that a specialized short-term pasture rotation has a place on your farm.

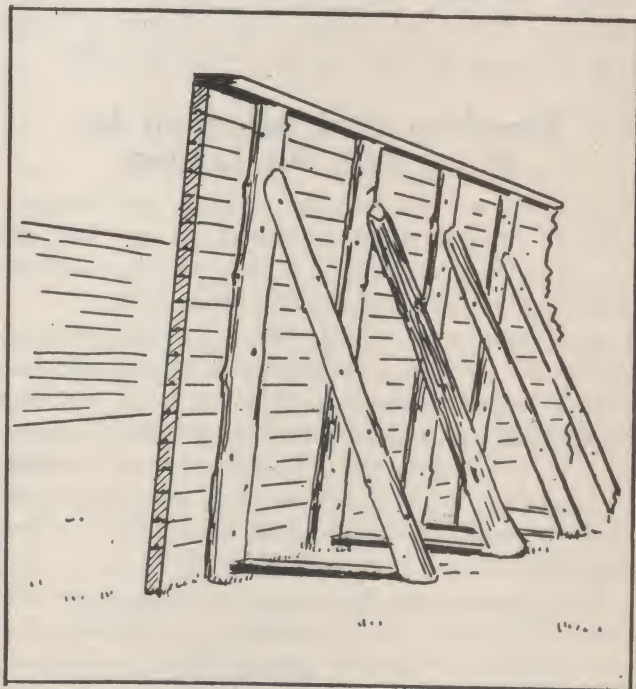
Horizontal Silos Can Save Labour

A low cost above-ground horizontal silo, easily constructed and equipped with a self-feeding gate may offer the best solution to the problems of high cost silo construction and heavy labour for filling and feeding.

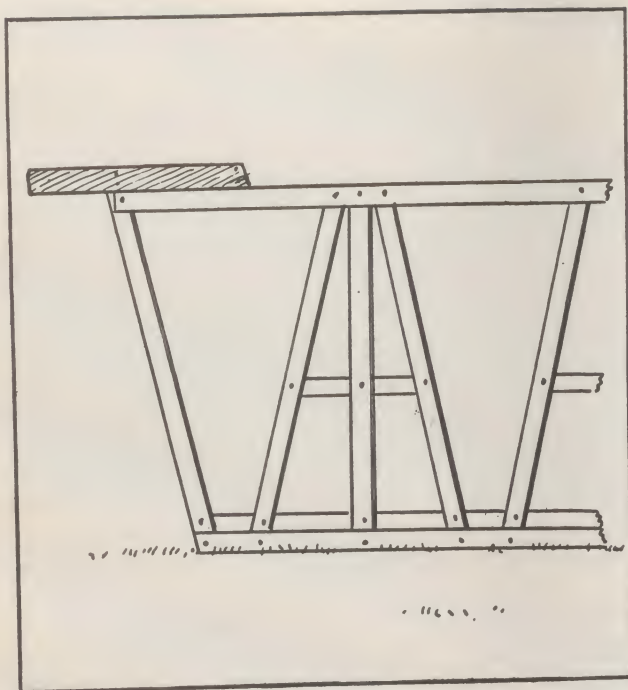
The drawings give some idea of how the silo and feeding gate are built. Forage may be put in long or chopped. Unloading is made easier by using dump trucks or smooth bottom wagons. A buck rake can put up grass silage cheaply with this type of silo. Such a silo works well for either grass or corn.

The minimum width of such a silo should be $1\frac{1}{2}$ times the outside measurements of the tractor or truck wheels. This will assure sufficient over-lap so that the silo may be packed to the edges and in the middle. Silage is shallow and little natural packing takes place. Sides of the silo should slope inward to aid proper packing.

The site for a horizontal silo should be well-drained and located conveniently to the barn — especially if fed out by hand. A concrete base for the silo has many



Detail of bracing for one type of horizontal silo.



Self-feeding gate for the horizontal silo.

advantages over building on the ground but of course increases costs.

A big money-saving feature is that home-grown materials can be used. The eight foot posts every six feet along the silo length can come from the woodlot and so can the bracing posts. While planking for the sides is usually dressed tongue and groove, rough planking and suitable silo-lining material have given excellent results.

Horizontal self-feeding silos appear to be popular with feeders who have used them. It is probable that this method of storing and feeding silage will grow in favour with both dairy farmers and other livestock feeders.

Breeding and Selection for More Milk Production

Income from the sales of livestock and livestock products amounted to 40 per cent of the total from the sales of all farm products in Canada for the past three years. Their value was nearly 3½ billion dollars.

These sales were achieved without any over-all reduction in the size of the breeding herds which made them possible. Capital invested in these herds in 1951 was approximately \$2,167,142,000. In other words the breeding stock now in the hands of Canadian farmers is capable of producing nearly double its own value of saleable products every three years. And of doing so without depleting the natural resources of the land.

From the time man first captured and tamed the wild beasts of the forest and the jungle, he has adapted them to his needs, and sought by selection and care to improve their quality. He has changed their form and character

and vastly improved their capacity to produce essential articles of food and clothing.

Livestock improvement made slow progress until leading breeders started to keep records of their individual animals. As more breeders adopted the practice and breed societies were organized, with official herd books, progress became more rapid. Later, as records of performance of outstanding animals were included in these records, productivity of certain types of animals such as the dairy cow was notably increased.

The Canadian Government, Provincial Government, and Breed Associations carry on improvement programs for the benefit of dairy farmers. Breed associations and the federal Department of Agriculture co-operate in the Record of Performance system for pure-bred dairy cattle. Services to aid the improvement of grade herds are under provincial administration.

Breeding and production records are an essential part of a livestock improvement program. The various breed associations sell or can direct you to a source of suitable record forms.

Selection of breeding stock has not been the only factor in this long story of livestock improvement. Care and improved feeding methods have had an important place. There have been notable changes in both respects from stock roaming at will in the cave dwelling era, to the milking parlours and scientifically balanced feed rations of today.



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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

*Activities, Plans and Policies of the Quebec
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No Refinery Co-Operative Yet

THE MINISTER of Agriculture made a tour of the sugar beet producing areas of Quebec last month, urging farmers to increase their acreage so that the St. Hilaire refinery could run for a longer period next fall and winter. One of his stops was at St. Hyacinthe, where he found an audience of about 500 farmers waiting to hear his message.

Mr. Barré started out by making a few facts clear and by refuting a number of rumours that are current in the province concerning the operations of the refinery. The provincial government has spent on the refinery, to date, no less than \$5,666,000. The purpose of this relatively large investment in a single item is to create an outlet for sugar beets which can be an important cash crop on the average farm near enough the refinery to ship to it. Sugar beets are the only crop for which the farmer has a guaranteed market and a guaranteed price — a price backed by the provincial government. And, Mr. Barré stressed, this price is paid regardless of the going price for sugar; which was \$6.22 per 100 pounds in 1944, \$10.26 in 1952 and \$7.22 in 1954. Since it takes 1 ton of beets to make 250 pounds of sugar, and since the guaranteed price to the producer for his beets is \$13 a ton, it is evident that, as yet, the refinery isn't a great money-maker.



The Minister of Agriculture is also president of the St. Hilaire Sugar Refinery Corporation.

This is the reason why no move has been made to turn the refinery over to a co-operative. The operation is still not at the stage where it can safely be handed over to a farmer group to run — it still has to have government backing. But he promised that it would be turned over just as soon as conditions warrant the change, if a responsible group comes forward to take charge.

Mr. Barré devoted a considerable amount of time to refuting charges that patronage is practised in the employment activities of the refinery, stressing that he and his colleagues have never interfered with the management in this regard, and promising that they never would. Also, he pointed out that the members of the government who form the Corporation (of which he is president) serve without salary.

J. E. Lemire, the manager, explained something of the workings of the refinery and the advantages of growing sugar beets. The refinery is equipped to process from 125,000 to 150,000 tons of beets a year. During the first four years, from 1944-1948, average receipts were only 16,477 tons, but as farmers became more acquainted with the crop, and more proficient in growing it, the yearly deliveries increased, and have averaged 88,000 tons for the past six years. This is, however, still just about half what the plant could handle, running at full capacity; and full running will reduce the cost of the finished product and give a greater margin of profit to be applied against the original investment.

Some farmers who grow beets on a large scale have made several thousand dollars a year on this crop — but these are the ones who grow a large acreage. He admitted that sugar beets, alone, would probably not support a farm. But they can play an important part in a rotation and bring in appreciable revenues, provided that enough of them are grown. He did not think it worth while to devote less than five acres to this crop, and a great number of farmers are growing less than this.

He went on to give some figures, based on 1953 crops, of the revenues from various crops grown commercially in Quebec, i.e.,

Tomatoes for canning	\$ 818,832
Beans for canning	847,364
Peas for canning	615,777
Pipe and cigar tobacco	1,393,000
Sugar beets	1,253,143

The last two figures are five year averages, 1947-51 for tobacco and 1950-54 for beets. Beet income in 1954, a particularly bad year for this crop, was \$878,931.

According to his figures, growing tomatoes for the cannery pays the farmer 50¢ an hour for his labour, beans brings 36¢, peas 47¢ and beets between \$1.00 and \$1.50. But, as he had already mentioned, the larger the acreage, the greater the profit.

Too many farmers are using only a few acres for beets, and give them only the barest of care and attention. They become discouraged because they are not getting rich quick, decide not to grow any more. This attitude poses a threat to the future supplies for the plant, and he felt that if the farmers would only realize that beets can be profitable if enough are grown, the situation would change. Last year 6% of the beets delivered to the plant came from farms where more than 5 acres were devoted to beets; 445 farmers cultivated 4,141 acres, an average of 9.3 acres, and 872 cultivated 2,317 acres, an average of only 2.6 acres per farm.

Then, too, yields on the small acreages are smaller than on the larger ones, comparatively. On areas of over 5 acres last year the average crop was 10.95 tons, compared with 9.54 tons on the smaller ones — a difference of 1.4 tons per acre, or a money value of \$18.20.

He pointed out that sugar beet growing doesn't take much initial investment; farmers with large families have no need to hire extra help, and for those who must engage extra labour to care for the crop, the Refinery operates an employment service. The Refinery corporation also owns a large supply of seeders and other machinery which are at the disposal of the farmers. However, he pointed out, when the present machines wear out, they will not be replaced.

B. Bellemare, instructor in sugar beets, cited the advantages of this crop and mentioned some of the principles which must be observed in growing it, and quoted figures to prove that on certain farms, in 1952, sugar beets brought in \$129.50 per acre and a wage of \$2.77 per hour to the farmer. Daniel Johnson, member for Bagot, also spoke in support of Mr. Barré's plea for higher production, and the meeting was organized and chaired by agronome Domina Fortin.

The 1954 Story

Sugar beet production in Quebec last year was 67,609 tons, grown on 1,340 separate farms in 25 different counties. At the refinery price of \$13 per ton this represents a revenue per farm, on the average, of \$656, or \$84 more than in 1953. The average yield per acre for the province was 10.4 tons, a fraction more than the year before. Cash paid to farmers by the refinery was \$878,917.

The counties with the largest production were St. Hyacinthe, 36,816 tons (over half the total), Bagot,

Canadian Cattle Breeders Meet

Canadian cattle breeders at their annual meeting held in Quebec last month passed several amendments to their constitution, setting up charges for registration of \$7 for one animal, \$12 for two, \$15 for three and \$5 for each additional animal. Inspection fees were set at \$2 for the first animal and \$1 for each additional one. They also set the minimum fat requirement for qualification in R.O.P. at 250 pounds for a two-year old in the 305 day division, 280 pounds for three-year olds, 300 for four-year olds and 320 for others. In the 365 day division the corresponding figures will be 280, 315, 340 and 360 pounds.

In Quebec 960 farmers raise Canadian cattle, but only about one third of them belong to the Association; however, steps are being taken to increase the membership, and it is hoped that the new rates for registration and inspection will attract more members.

A number of trophies for various achievements were presented during the meeting. Arthur Gagné, herdsman for Maurice Halle, received the award for the herd having the highest average production and Albani Nichols one for the herd showing the best general type for the breed. The Couture trophy for the best udder went to a cow owned by L. Sansoucy of St. Ours, for the St. Hyacinthe Fair, to O. A. Fowler for the Royal, and to Albani Nichols for the Quebec Fair.

Andrea St. Pierre, speaking on type classification, reported that there are now 3,167 Canadian cattle classified in Quebec, 237 of them in the "excellent" category. During 1954 28 herds, or 395 individuals, had been classified with 8.4% of them making "excellent".

There are 33 Canadian clubs in Quebec, and their presidents are eligible to become directors of the Association. Since one director from each club would make an unwieldy board, a new system of electing directors was put into practice this year; the names of all the presidents were put into a box and the first nine names to be drawn out were declared directors for 1955. The drawing resulted in the election of M. Bernier of Becancour, Alex. Fournier of Montmagny, Albani Nichols, La Présentation, Jules Rioux, St. Simon, Ludger Dubé, Ile Verte, Marcel Asselin, St. Charles, J. D. Langlais, St. Philippe, O. A. Fowler, Richmond and Ed. Pilote, St. Félicien. J. A. Leblanc of Stornoway remains for another year as president, and Maurice Halle will continue as secretary.

Speakers at the meeting included Minister of Agriculture Barré, Pierre Labrecque, Armand Ouellet, Andrea St. Pierre, J. A. Kavanagh from the R.O.P. office and A. J. Normandeau of the Quebec Exhibition.

7,444 tons, Napierville, 7,413 tons and Verchères, 4,018 tons.

Good Crowd for Holstein Meeting

THE CROWD was slim when president J. A. Rheault called the 20th annual meeting of the Quebec Branch of the Holstein-Friesian Association to order last month, but before long latecomers who had found trouble with the roads had arrived and the Spanish Room at the Queen's Hotel in Montreal was well filled with enthusiastic delegates.

They heard an encouraging welcome address from the president, and an optimistic report from Secretary Hermas Lajoie, who reviewed the operations of the past year. He pointed out that since the Association was formed in 1934 membership had gone from 773 to 1561, registrations from 3339 to 7658 and transfers from 2457 to 5210. Membership during 1954 had fallen off somewhat, which he attributed to the general conditions in the dairy industry; the lack of assurance as to what the future holds and lower prices on local and foreign markets. But he felt cheerful about the future and felt that there was little to worry about, provided breeders exerted themselves to improve production, both of field crops and cattle, by every means in their power. The Quebec breeders can no longer depend on others for publicity; they must take into their own hands the task of proving to city consumers the importance of milk and other dairy products in their diet. Failing this, he could see very much the same situation still facing dairy producers in another 20 years.

The financial statement showed that the cost of running the Association in 1954 had been a little more than the revenues, but the deficit was small and will likely be overcome in 1955. Chief sources of income are the grants from the National Association (\$8963) and the Quebec Department of Agriculture (\$7000), while salaries, grants to exhibitions and travelling expenses were the large items of expense.

Fairs and exhibitions, including the summer "Black and White" days, are excellent ways of publicizing the breed, and in 1954 these displays were more numerous and better than in 1953. At the 6 major exhibitions 80 breeders showed 639 head, and at the 9 Black and White Days 103 breeders came out with 820 head, Victoriaville heading the list with 21 exhibitors and 206 head of cattle. The annual picnic held on the farm of Donat Giard in July, a stand at the Salon d'Agriculture (for which W. K. MacLeod paid the bills), encouragement in the form of special grants to 4-H Clubs were other profitable avenues of publicity.

Selective registration in Quebec is now in the hands of Wray Taylor and George VanPater, following the resignation of J. R. Proulx. They, with the co-operation of the agronomes and the club secretaries, visited 388 farms and inspected 351 herds, classifying 1640 females and 243 bulls. The owners of 34 herds asked for inspec-

tion for the first time in 1954. The latest figures for classification in Canada show that 15,439 females and 478 bulls have been classified. There are 2338 Holstein herds on R.O.P. of which 525 are in Quebec.

Production Certificates Presented

One interesting item of business was the presentation of 111 certificates of production for cows which have produced more than 100,000 pounds of milk. Heading the list was R. Blanchette of La Présentation, who received a certificate for the production of Fancy Inka de la Présentation on a production of 203,847 pounds of milk, 6,873 pounds of fat in 12 lactations. Three other certificates went to the same herd, and William Bousquet of the same address received six, his Finette Reina Tensen leading with 202,066 pounds milk, 7375 pounds fat. Brown Corporation's herd is being dispersed, and Tom Cleland, who has been responsible for building the herd up to its present heights, received his last awards, totalling 9 headed by Browns Johanna Rightaway with 176,651 pounds. The Hon. Antonio Elie took home five certificates, and many other breeders had more than one.

President's Comments

President Rheault was at a loss to understand or explain why only 3000 farmers in Quebec, where there are 135,000 of them engaged in cattle raising, are in the pure bred business. Extension men and others really interested in progress have been working in the province for 35 years, doing their best to sell the doctrine of herd improvement for high production, but they are still a



President J. A. Rheault presents a certificate of production for R. Blanchette's Fancy Inka de la Présentation (203,847 pounds milk, 6,873 pounds fat). In the absence of Mr. Blanchette, Agronome Domina Fortin accepted the certificate.

long way from their goal. He found himself wondering why Quebec farmers seem to be so indifferent to their own interests, and whether they are really interested in getting ahead in their business. Why be content with an average production of only 4800 pounds? Why not strive for at least 10,000?

Another thing he couldn't understand was the unfortunate lack of interest in R.O.P. and selective registration. Other farmers can't become interested in becoming pure bred breeders if it can't be proved that the pure breeds are superior to grade animals, and to do this records are necessary. Every pure bred breeder must be a fieldman for the breed and the more farmers are converted to good management practices, the better off everyone will be.

He acknowledged that 1954 had been a difficult year but thought that things would improve in 1955, particularly now that the Dominion-Provincial agreement on calfhood vaccinatin has been signed, which will make export deals easier.

Guests at the meeting included Fred Snyder, the National President, F. C. Elight, first vice-president, and George Clemons, Secretary-manager, all of whom brought greetings from the National Associations. Prof. Jean Peron of Oka spoke during the dinner section of the meeting on the subject of feeding with particular reference to minerals.

Harold Wilson of Lachute was elected president for the forthcoming term, with Philip Pepin, Victoriaville, as vice-president. The board of directors is composed of the presidents of each of the 16 local clubs, plus the 3 directors of the National Association, who are S. Panneton, T. Cleland and H. L. Guilbert.

Open House At St. Johns

The Science Service Laboratory staff at St. Johns, encouraged by the success of their first venture into technician-grower relations last year, set up another set of study-days at the laboratory on March 17 and 18. On the first day they were host to apple growers of the district who are French speaking, and on the following day it was the turn of the English growers. More than 100 turned out for the French meeting, which was held, for lack of sufficient space at the laboratory, in one of the halls of the Military College. The English sessions were held in the lecture room at the laboratory.

More time was devoted this year to discussion, though each topic was introduced by a short, illustrated talk by the staff member particularly interested in that particular subject. Taking part in the programme were André Beaulieu, Officer in Charge, L. Cinq-Mars, René Crete, E. J. LeRoux, R. O. Paradis, Benoît Parent, J. B. Maltais and A. Cloutier.

Mr. Cinq-Mars led off with a discussion of fireblight, once a scourge of the orchards, but now well under

control. Some, however, occurred in Huntingdon County last summer, mostly of Wolf River, Fameuse and Yellow Transparent. Streptomycin, the wonder drug that has made such a success in human disease control, is very effective against fireblight, and three sprays during the blossoming season will keep it under control. Used as a paint on the cankers it is also effective.

René Crete's presentation on the relative merits of protectant and eradicant sprays was followed by a good discussion with a panel of technicians answering questions from the floor. It was generally agreed that the district served by the St. John's laboratory is probably the worst in the world as far as scab troubles go, and control of this disease is the principal worry of growers. However, scab can be kept under control by proper sprays, put on at the right time. There are a number of reliable materials available, some protectants and some eradicants. The ideal is to keep the trees protected at all times so that scab spores, which are bound to be deposited on the foliage, will not be able to germinate. Repeated applications of a good protectant is recommended as the best control, with the eradicant sprays held in reserve to be used as a last resort. The recommended materials are given in the spray guide which is published every year for the information of growers.

The entomologists on the staff took over the meeting after the luncheon recess and developed a theme which they introduced at last year's meeting, namely, control of insects by natural rather than by artificial means. Indiscriminate spraying of insecticides may, in some cases, do more harm than good by destroying more of the parasites that prey on the harmful insects than the insects themselves. Then, too, especially with DDT, a resistance can be built up in the insect populations. Insecticides used against a particular pest may result in increasing the population of another, for example, when DDT is used as a codling moth spray, it kills the parasites of the



The Science Service laboratory at St. Johns, P.Q., is a new building, excellently equipped for research in entomology and plant pathology. The greenhouses are to the left of the main building, and a series of plant growth chambers in the basement will be ready soon.

red banded leaf roller. For the codling moth, arsenates are better.

As far as apple maggot is concerned, the usual control methods are still advocated. It was suggested that growers could check on the time of emergence of the flies by placing a screen cage over a pile of cull apples somewhere in the orchard, and checking it regularly to find out when the flies are starting to emerge as a help in planning their spraying.

A new basis for dosage recommendations

Dr. Beaulieu pointed out that Quebec is the only province that rates its orchard on the basis of trees instead of acreage. In our spray recommendations the formula is always given in terms of so many pounds of material per 100 gallons of water. He thought that with the increasing use of concentrate sprays, the system should be changed and the recommendations should be given in terms of a certain quantity of material per acre. He claimed that, with a given gallonage of liquid in a tank no two growers are apt to get the same quantity of trees covered; much depends on the speed of the sprayer through the orchard. Then, too, with a mist sprayer the effect is to fill all the air in the orchard with the spray and not to put the spray on tree by tree as used to be the case. He thought that in future the spray guide should make its recommendations in two ways; the present one, giving pounds per hundred gallons, and a new one, which might eventually replace the other, giving the



Dr. E. J. LeRoux ponders a point as he discusses pest control with apple growers at the St. Johns Laboratory. In profile in front of him is Dr. A. A. Beaulieu, Director of the laboratory.

weight of spray material required per acre of orchard.

A. Cloutier discussed the control of mice in orchards, claiming that on the Island of Orleans, in tests run there, red squill had proved to be the most effective poison.

This was a meeting in which everybody had a chance to take part, and many growers took advantage of the opportunity to ask questions, and to tell something of their own methods of insect and disease control for the benefit of the others. It was voted a very successful affair, and it is certain to become a popular annual feature.

Pure Bred Breeders Want Uniformity At Fairs

THE establishment of an organization to co-ordinate the activities of exhibition boards, to bring some uniformity to prize lists, and to set up standards for the protection of livestock sent to fairs has been a perennial topic of discussion at numerous meetings. It came to the fore again at the annual meeting of the Purebred Livestock Breeders's Association held in Quebec the middle of March. The idea is to have a federation of fair directors, which will lay down regulations acceptable both to the fair executives and the exhibitors, and which will apply all over the province. Discussion at the meeting centered around the question of who should take the initiative. Should it be the Department of Agriculture, the Quebec Fair, or the Association itself? Finally it was decided that the Association, representing as it does all pure bred breeders in the Province, should make the move to try to get such an organization functioning.

There were about 200 delegates at the meeting, the sixth since the Association was re-organized, with Dr. Ernest Mercier presiding. Armand Ouellet as secretary presented a report of achievements during 1954. The papers presented at the previous year's meeting had been published, thanks to the Department of Agriculture;

the booklet was a valuable reference book on many aspects of livestock raising, and had been greatly appreciated by breeders. Messrs. Adrien Côté, Nap. Mercier and L. N. St. Pierre had been responsible for its publication.

The directors had done a considerable amount of work on assembling all the suggestions for changes in cattle classes in the fair programmes that had come from various quarters, and this work will be continued in 1955. Encouragement to 4-H clubs had been continued and trophies had been presented to the top judges representing Quebec at the national judging contests, Kenneth McQuat in dairy cattle, Lin Auger in hogs, Claudette Levesque in sheep and Gordon Garfat in beef cattle.

It is agreed that it is a good thing to show every encouragement to those who will be the cattle breeders of the future; but everyone appreciates a pat on the back, be he young or older, and the Association does not neglect the well-established herd owner. Each year the Association presents a trophy to the exhibitor at the Quebec Fair who has the grand champion bull of the breed which the president of the Association happens to represent during his term of office. Jerseys were the

favoured breed in 1954, and the trophy (a silver tray) therefore went to Jean Paul Dubuc of St. Hyacinthe. In 1955, the owner of the champion Belgian stallion will be the winner.

Last February, during the week of the Salon of Agriculture in Montreal, nine of the groups of breeders making up the Pure Bred Association got together to provide a display at the Show Mart. Ayrshires, Holsteins, Canadians, Jersey cattle, Belgian, Canadian and Percheron horses, and sheep and hogs were all represented by excellent exhibits. The horses were supplied by Gilbert Arnold, the dairy cattle by the St. Hyacinthe Dairy School, J. G. Wilson, Ernest Sylvester, Paul Adam and Lionel Dion. Mr. Leo Filion supplied the hogs and the sheep came from the Lennoxville Experimental Farm. Stalls for the livestock were supplied by the Jutras firm and the Department of Agriculture helped financially with the venture, which was an excellent advertisement for Quebec livestock.

A Look To The Future

Dr. Mercier, who spoke during the dinner meeting, wondered what our livestock would be like in twenty years. To him, the answer was simple. Our pure bred stock will be good or bad according to how we select our sires. Selection on the basis of type or breeding should give place to selection on the basis of progeny tests. In choosing a bull less weight should be given to the mother-daughter comparison and more emphasis put on the figures of average production of the daughters as compared with the average of the herd. In other types of livestock, rate and economy of gain, coupled with good carcass quality, should be the criterion.

This year Dr. Mercier relinquished the presidency, which passed to Mr. J. A. Ste. Marie, and François Montminy and Azellus Lavallée are first and second vice-presidents respectively. Directors for 1955 are J. A. Leblanc, Stornoway, Joseph Hébert, Becancour, Hon. Wilfrid l'Abbé, Victoriaville, Donat Giard, Ste. Rosalie, Adrien Morin, St. Hyacinthe, Ernest Mercier, Armand Ouellette will continue as secretary.

Ayrshire Breeders Ponder Herd Improvement

LEO LEBLANC, presiding at the annual meeting of the Quebec Ayrshire Club last month hailed 1954 as the year in which the new system for registration of Ayrshire bulls came into force. He recalled that in 1953 the regulations had been amended to permit registration of bulls only from dams having production records equal to or higher than the average for the breed. The regulations adopted and put into force in 1954 provided that the dams of bulls to be registered must be classified at least good, in addition to having acceptable records. (It will be remembered that at the National meeting held earlier this year an attempt was made to have this latter regulation rescinded, without success). Mr. Leblanc saw in this new provision a step forward in the continual attempts to improve the breed. He also hailed the signing of the agreement between the Federal and Provincial authorities concerning calfhood vaccination, underlining that Quebec was the first province to have reached agreement with Ottawa.

François Boulais has resigned as fieldman, but will continue for another year as secretary. His report showed a membership of 901, a membership of 982 for 1953. New members were 145, which means that 226 members dropped out during the year under review. Exports were down by about 200 head, and registrations were also fewer, with transfers up a little.

Although the Club finished the year with a small surplus, finances are causing concern, and a drive for membership seems to be indicated. He urged that all possible sources of income be explored so that the work



Pierre Labrecque often watches breeders accept trophies for the achievements of their animals, but this time his interest in the problem of livestock breeders was rewarded and he himself received a trophy.

of the Club can be continued at the necessary level of efficiency.

The breeders supported the exhibitions and the Red and White days well; at the latter 1332 head of cattle were shown by 111 breeders and good exhibits came out to the Quebec Fair and to the regional and local exhibitions.

A feature of the 1954 programme of activities was the organization of a production contest at the club or district level, which was won by J. P. Bradley's Glengarry

Wonderful with a 10-month production of 17,599 pounds milk, 845 pounds fat with a 4.8% test. This cow, at the age of 8, already has 6 records of over 15,000 pounds..

It was late in the day before the meeting got around to considering the report of the Resolutions Committee and nobody seemed disposed to question or even comment on any of the proposals. Even one which instituted a membership fee of \$2.00 aroused scarcely any interest; it was passed without discussion, and the directors were left with the task of collecting it.

One resolution asked for an improved programme of herd classification, and the National Association was asked to appoint a type classification man for Eastern Quebec and the Lower St. Lawrence districts.

The Resolutions Committee also put forward the suggestion, though not in the form of a resolution, that each club secretary be called upon to visit each member of his club at least once a year and to extend any help or advice that might be desired. Realizing that this might turn out to be quite a chore, it was further suggested that the secretary be paid not less than \$50 for this work. It appeared doubtful if many clubs would decide to do this, however.

J. H. Tremblay of the Federal Department of Agriculture was the guest speaker at the dinner meeting. He admitted at the outset that the dairy business is in poor shape, with an artificial price in force for butter and large stocks of butter and cheese in storage just before the start of the summer make. With a world price for butter of around 35¢, and with European countries making all and perhaps more than they require, our support price of 58¢ has little relation to reality. Notwithstanding all this, our production is increasing all the time and is well ahead of consumption — not a promising outlook.

And yet, he claimed, in spite of our present support price, many farmers in Quebec are producing milk from

cows that may just barely pay for their board if, indeed, they aren't producing at a loss. He thought that a good quarter of many herds could and should be culled out; and the owner would probably be just as far ahead in the long run and would likely find himself with a larger net profit from his smaller but better herd. Beef cattle or sheep could profitably be introduced onto the farm to replace the culled dairy stock.

Only in Canada is the R.O.P. work largely paid for by the State; every farmer who is at all interested in knowing what his herd is doing for him should have production records, and yet interest in R.O.P. seems to be lessening instead of growing by leaps and bounds as it should.

And there was one thing which he thought the Association should do, and that was to keep a closer check on the cows that are registered. He felt that far too many mediocre cows are being registered, to the detriment of the breed as a whole.

Other speakers at the dinner were Maurice Lafaille, who brought a welcome on behalf of the City Council in Mayor Drapeau's absence, Azellus Lavallée and Pierre Labrecque, who was astonished but pleased to find himself presented with a trophy in recognition of his constant work on behalf of livestock breeders.

Twenty-three production certificates were presented to various breeders, and a special trophy went to J. P. Bradley for Glengarry Wonderful's winning of the principal contest. An auction sale of a heifer calf donated by J. P. Lizotte brought \$120 into the Club's treasury.

Napoleon Plante of Levis was elected president, and the presidents of the local clubs were confirmed as directors of the provincial Association.

Stop Deliveries, Buy Milk at Store, Economist Advises

A solution for the housewife who cries "milk costs too much," and the dairyman who says "people don't drink enough of it," is being proffered by an agricultural economist at Virginia Polytechnic Institute.

Dr. J. L. Maxton suggests handling fresh milk through food stores, just like all other foods, and discontinuing the three-times-a-week delivery by distributors.

Food stores are already carrying cottage cheese, dry milk, etc.—in fact about half of all dairy products. Why not fluid milk too?

The reduction in price per quart to consumers made possible from savings on deliveries, sending out bills, bad credit risks, etc., would amount to at least 2 to 3 cents, Dr. Maxton says. This should increase both consumption and returns to producers who would sell more for paper bottle use.

The housewife has to go to the grocery store anyway. She might as well buy her milk while she's there, Dr. Maxton points out.



On behalf of J. P. Bradley, Mr. J. H. McConnell accepts a trophy and a certificate of production for Glengarry Wonderful's achievements in winning the provincial contest.

Dear Readers:

Everywhere I go these days it is pointed out very decidedly that the "little fellow" is due for extermination. Every farm paper I pick up refers to the eradication of the "little farmer". Yes, even the radio reports on the uselessness of farming in a small way and we are advised to keep our cows at 10,000 pounds of milk a year per cow. That means that each cow would have to produce $33\frac{1}{3}$ pounds of milk a day for 300 days.

We're sending to the Livestock Branch at Quebec for some record of production sheets and milk sample bottles. We used this service until we put in the milking machine and dropped it because of the need of weighing each cow's milk every day, but now they have changed the rules to conform to the use of the milking machines. We find we miss having the annual report on each cow's butterfat and weight of milk produced. We keep, on the average, from 10 to 20 cows in this locality.

MIRACLE BILL says:

"MIRACLE Dairy Feeds help increase milk production to the maximum that each cow can provide. That's because they supply the balanced ration that cows need. Try 'MIRACLE' Dairy Feeds — and watch profits increase!"



It's a struggle for a farmer to make a living if he sticks just to farming. Every little detail calls for care, from rising early to keeping milk records. Most of us around here have a sideline to pay the bills: lumbering, carpentering or custom work with farm machinery are popular ones. Then on rainy days we shoe horses or build boats. Our French neighbour once said that on rainy days he cut brush. He was always complaining of his rheumatism, too.

At the Institute meeting the story was the same. In our Institute of twelve members the question was "How are we going to raise \$15 for the Pooling of the Fares Fund?" It is still unanswered.

There is the same need for expansion in the Farm Forum. We are searching for answers to the questions of the New Farm Organization. "How are we going to pay our C.F.A. membership fee if it is raised next year without adding more members to our Farm Forum organization? How are we to encourage membership in this locality?" About 7% of our farmers are carrying the expense of C.F.A. membership for the remainder of the English-speaking non-Forum members. What is in the mind of every Farm Forum member is, "How are we going to do it?"

It certainly is a challenge. Are we going to keep these noble institutions? I sincerely hope so. (We had fun last night at a W.I. card party. I didn't get the consolation prize, but I nearly did). Or are we going to take the easy way out and decide not to belong? No Farm Forum, no Institute, no neighborliness, no life. Eventually the outcome will be that we'll all move to the city and join the "Y" if we let this happen.

We have a new project suggested in our Farm Forum — Rural Life Sunday, possibly to be held the first fine Sunday in June at some convenient picnic spot. It will take the form of an open air church service followed by a picnic, and it may

take in two or three other Forums.

Birchton Forum is enjoying their 1954-55 Project — a renovated hall and a new kitchen. I am anxious to see it. We were confined with the mumps when they held their oyster-supper opening. By all accounts the hall is very well planned and finished to perfection.

High and Low Forest Forum's suggested project is to buy a sprayer for grain and potato crops. Flanders Forum is sugaring-off at the Sawyerville Legion Hut on Saturday night. They are making this an annual event. We had an enjoyable evening at Mr. and Mrs. Drouin's last year, early in March. Over a hundred friends came to enjoy the first sugar on snow of the season. They served doughnuts and crisp, green pickles too. There were several tables of cards and a dart game to add to the evening's fun.

Other Forums in the Eastern Townships are discussing buying a projector. We certainly enjoy ours, which has been in use in this district for over a year. Membership in our Council is extended to Calf Clubs, Women's Institutes and C.G.I.T. groups as well as five Forums. The first Friday night in the month is our turn for the film projector, and we are finding out that the National Film Board certainly produces some very good films. We learned more at the film showing last Friday night than we would have if we had spent several evenings reading two or three books.

One of the films showed the benefits that could result to health and to agriculture, and how power could be obtained, by the use of atomic energy. It explained that more than destruction can come out of splitting the atom. We were certainly glad to know that.

I hope you were invited to some sugaring-off parties.

Sincerely,

Wally.

The Great Divide

"I'm not much on experts as a rule, but once in a while they come in handy," a broiler grower was telling us a while back.

"Here year before last my flock was coming along just fine when all of a sudden I commenced to find dead birds.

"Dern things get so many ailments these days that I just put two-three dead ones in the car and took 'em down to the diagnostic laboratory.

"Did me good just to look at that fellow down there, with his apron and all those thingamabobs. Didn't take him two minutes to cut one open and poke around and tell me right off it was typhoid.

"Told me how to get rid of it just as nice as you please, too. Sure did set my mind at rest. I had it figured to be something a whole lot worse.

"Didn't but a few dozen more birds die after that, and I got busy with something else and never did find out whether what he said would work.

"Knew just what to do, though, when the next crop started dying. Packed a couple off to that laboratory fellow.

"He was just as nice as the last time. Cut one open and told me it was typhoid again, and told me just how to get rid of it. Just exactly what he told me the first time. He was a right smart fellow.

"It got sort of dry right after that, and I got to worrying with my pasture, and didn't get to try it.

"Well, sir, the batch I got now started dying about a month ago. Worse this time. Looked something like the other two times and then again it didn't. So I went back again.

"Same fellow was there. He told me it was typhoid again and he told me just what to do. One of these days I'm going to try it, too.

"Yes sir, it sure is a comfort to have a fellow like that around."



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THE WOMEN'S INSTITUTES SECTION

*Devoted to the activities of the Quebec Institutes
and to matters of interest to them*

Painting Section Well Supported

Competition was keen in the painting section of the provincial contest of the Tweedsmuir Competition. It is planned to have the display for the Convention but the picture will give you some idea of the 18 entries. First prize went to South Bolton, Mrs. J. B. Hamilton the artist, and second to Stanstead North, with a painting by Mrs. B. W. Brown. Honorable mention was given three others. One of these is seen at the upper left hand corner of the illustration and was entered by Mrs. Latchem, Harwood W.I. Continuing across the top, the next is another in this class by Mrs. G. Westover, Knowlton's Landing W.I. Next is the winning painting, then the second prize and just beyond (fifth in row) the other honorable mention by Mrs. L. Smith, Lennoxville, W.I.

In placing these awards the judge, Miss Elizabeth Jaques, Art Specialist, School for Teachers, Macdonald College, made the general comment that she chose those paintings showing an original visual experience of the artist and not one strongly-influenced by Christmas cards and other commercially prepared pictures. Speaking in particular of the winning picture she said that here the artist saw the subject for a picture in inconsequential material, had handled her material with simplicity, allowing the strong lines of hills and trees to make a satisfactory composition, and had painted it in a broad, bold way, avoiding fussy detail. The painting placed second

was selected for its composition and for the successful handling of a complex subject. All painters exhibiting were commended for their interest and their developing of understanding and skill.

Only two entries were received in each of the other two contests, a most disappointing response. The entries, themselves, were good and were placed as follows: *Village History*, Fordyce, Arundel, Mrs. Keith Beattie, English Specialist, Sherbrooke High School, judge; and *Outfit*, Lennoxville, Sandy Beach. The latter were judged by the Home Economics Division, Department of Agriculture, Quebec.

In commenting on the former, Mrs. Beattie noted with approval the many photostatic copies of old records, which added much to the interest of the Fordyce history. The attractive cover on Arundel's history won special mention. The outfits had a very close score, 93 and 90, and the comment here was "both showed very good taste and workmanship".

We are sure many more Institutes must have been planning for a history. That is one section of the Competition that never alters, and requires much time to prepare, so keep working. These contests occur every biennial term of the F.W.I.C.; your history will be ready for one of them.



Farmer and Average Wage Earner

IT WOULD seem that country people tend to think that urban dwellers only have to draw a pay cheque and all their worries are banished, and to the urbanite the farmer only has to cash a milk cheque and his worries are over. I have lived in both city and country and know well the fallacy of this belief.

On the farm, the farmer is boss, manager, accountant and wage earner. He has considerable capital invested in his farm, its buildings and machinery and would like to see a return on his investment as well as for his labour and many skills. I heard on the radio recently that a farmer can reckon his time as worth \$0.95 per hour, but it is questionable if he realizes that much and it is certain that city workers generally receive more than that. Although farms have tended to become larger over the past few years yet in 1950, 38% of Canadian farms sold less than \$2,000 worth of produce from their farms.

One of the farmer's greatest handicaps is the lack of help available. Many are forced to buy expensive machinery to make up for lack of manpower. As soon as the war broke out, country people flocked to the cities to do war work and this migration continued until 1954. Now, many of these former farmers are purchasing farms of their own, but in most cases, they cannot find men to work for them. It looks to farmers as if some young men prefer to collect unemployment insurance and remain idle. However, unemployment insurance can and does come to an end, and then any young man, who sincerely wants to work, will have no difficulty in finding work that is pleasant, varied and interesting on a farm. The salary looks small but it is clear, and almost any farm is within easy reach of the city pleasures to which our young people have become accustomed, plus our country pleasures.

On the farm, it is true, we have our own home-grown vegetables and sometimes our own meat, but the groceries, such as flour, sugar, spices, soaps, and so on, have to be bought from the stores, just as the city dweller must buy hers, and at the same price.

When a farmer sells, he cannot set his own price, but must accept what is offered. Town workers have unions. What would happen if the farmer went on strike? His customers would be ruined just as surely as he himself would be.

In a recent Farmer's publication, Mr. Gower Markle, of the United Steel-workers of Canada, said: "A myth, which has little basis in fact, and which is among the most persistent, is that the interests of industrial workers and farm workers are in opposition. The perpetuation of

this myth has been to the advantage of some sections of our society, but it has only injured the two groups of workers most directly concerned and, in total, it has hurt more people than it has helped. You know the myth, that industrial workers are kept poor by the exorbitant prices farmers are demanding for their farm products and on the other hand, that farmers are kept in debt because the prices of all the manufactured goods they consume — clothing, implements, fuel, commercial fertilizers, and so on — have been skyrocketed by the fantastic wages paid to labor, mainly as a result of the activity of unions.

"We all know by now that when farmers cannot buy, industrial workers lose their jobs, and when industrial workers cannot buy, farmers cannot pay on their mortgages. Industrial workers can only pay a fair price for what food they are able to buy if they are earning a fair wage, and the farmer will only benefit from this if an undue portion of the price does not stick to the fingers of the man-in-the-middle.

"Workers, both farm and industrial, are realizing that their destinies are linked together and now they are starting to pull together and make progress. Many labor leaders take advantage of every opportunity to meet with or address a group of farmers, and farm leaders are being invited to meet with industrial workers. They are coming to an understanding of each other's problems, these two largest economic groups in our society".

In the past ten years the number of tractors used on Canadian farms has jumped from 160,000 to nearly 400,000; in 20 years there has been an increase of 78,000 milkers; combines, the most expensive machine of all, have jumped from 9,000 to 90,000 in 20 years. These machines represent a tremendous expense for the farmer, but they also mean pay cheques for the city wage earner.

So you see, I am sure, why we must make a better effort, each to consider and understand the other.

(Broadcast given by Mrs. B. Turner, President Sherbrooke County W.I., over Station CKTS, Sherbrooke.)

Children, in the school, who have a plot of ground and who are eight years of age or over, can obtain a good variety of seeds supplied by the Quebec Government. Each child is expected to plant the seeds, care for the plants and exhibit his own produce at School Fairs sponsored by Women's Institutes. In Sherbrooke County last year there were more than 600 entries in vegetables alone and quality was high, and this is but one of many such Fairs held in other parts of the province. This project can again forge a link between City and Country.

The Month With The W.I.

County presidents have been busy since the semi-annual. Many branches report a visit from them, when this meeting was discussed with the members. Several branch annuals were also held in time to have it mentioned here. The office would like to steal a line to say — never have the secretaries' reports come in so promptly and never have they been so correct. A most appreciative "thank you" for this efficient co-operation.

Argenteuil: At *Arundel* 22 members were enrolled in the slipper course given by Miss J. McQuat, Handicraft Technician, at which 37 pairs of slippers were made. *Brownsburg* had a pot-luck supper served under the convenorship of Mrs. Chas. Varg. W.I. members are helping with the Red Cross Campaign and donations were made to Boy Scouts and Girl Guides. *Jerusalem-Bethany* donated \$50 to the local school for mentally retarded children and \$10 to the Red Cross Campaign. The year's program presented by Mrs. D. McDonald was accepted. *Lachute* announces that their library of 1000 books is open to the public every Friday afternoon. *Mille Isles* had annual reports and a discussion on the Blue Cross. *Morin Heights* had a pot-luck supper for the members and school teachers. The branch history has been compiled by Mrs. R. J. Seale, organized May 26, 1927. One charter member, Mrs. Doherty, was present. Two members are aiding the Girl Guides, Mrs. Kilpatrick and Mrs. Henry. *Pioneer* heard a talk by Dr. Susan McKimmie on "Epilepsy". Roses were sent to Mrs. Thomas Cowan, a charter member on the occasion of her golden wedding anniversary. Red Cross sewing is being done. *Upper Lachute-East End* sold a quilt in aid of branch funds.

Brome: *Abercorn* heard a talk by Mrs. Kuhring on "Laws as They Affect Women in Quebec". A Dresden Plate quilt top has been made and a donation of \$3 was received. *Austin* gave a farewell party for a member and her son. A paper on Publicity was given, another on "The Governor-General, Vincent Massey", and a poem read, "The Farmer's Wife". Mrs. Stone and Mrs. Juby served



Mrs. W. B. Holmes, branch president, accepts the plaque presented by Mrs. Woodard at the same meeting. Way's Mills is the oldest branch in Stanstead County and was organized by Miss Frederica Campbell.

a baked bean supper for the members. *South Bolton* reports a painting by Mrs. J. B. Hamilton was entered in the Tweedsmuir Contest (first prize winner, see results in this issue). *Sutton* held two contests on birds. The sum of \$17 was realized from a card party, and was voted to the B.M.P. Hospital at Sweetsburg.

Chat-Huntingdon: *Aubrey-Riverfield* members are listening to and reporting back on the various health programs over CFCF. Mrs. A. McFarlane read the poem, "On A Bridge". *Dundee* sent more cotton to the Cancer Society. Short talks were given by three members on "Places of Interest I Visited in Quebec City", "Story of a Farmer's Courtship", and "Recollections of Life in a Boarding School". *Franklin Centre* held two card parties which netted \$54.60 and welcomed two new members. *Hemmingsford* held a card and food sale. The film, "Getting There is Half the Fun" (Atlantic Crossing on the Queen Elizabeth) was shown to 200 pupils. The program consisted of a questionnaire on CBC radio and television; talks, "Health of Poets" and "How to Live Longer" and excerpts from the book, "You and Your Family Under Quebec Law". A sing-song closed the meeting. *Howick* raised \$50 commission on the sale of cards during the year. Mrs. W. Kerr read an article, "How to Rest by Relaxing". An exhibit of quilt blocks was on display. *Huntingdon* presented a gift to Mrs. Martin who is leaving the community. Flower and vegetable seeds are to be given to the school pupils by Mr. L. Beaudin, local agronomer. A talk "Recollections of a Student Minister", was given by Rev. Mr. Beal.



Mrs. Woodard, the county president, presents Life Memberships to Way's Mills charter members at their 40th anniversary. She is shown fastening the pin on Mrs. Hovey. Miss Oliver is at other end of the table and Mrs. McKinnon is almost out of the picture at right.

Compton: Dolls, dressed in the costumes of ACWW countries, are to be dressed for an exhibit at Cookshire Fair, a county project. All branches are also working on children's clothing for the same purpose. These will later be sent to Save the Children. A committee has been

appointed to prepare a prize list for the School Fair. Bury JWI has been making felt skirts. Miss McOuat is to give a demonstration on salad making and cake decorating. Interesting projects for the ensuing year are being considered. The year closed with a balance of \$113.36 in the treasury. *Cookshire* had a talk, "Emotions and Their Effect on Health", given by Mrs. J. A. Fraser. A fruit cake netted \$26, which was given to the Wales Home. A card party was held and 11 boxes of UNICEF cards sold. *East Clifton* heard a paper, "What We Want For Our Children". A gift was purchased for a new baby and a donation made to the Cemetery Fund in memory of departed members. *Sawyerville* had a party and guessing contest. A course in hat remodelling is planned. *Scotstown* gave a month's supply of milk to a needy family. Several knitted squares were sent to the W.V.S. Members competed in a hat trimming contest.

Gatineau: *Aylmer East* discussed proper food for teeth, heard an article "Care of Teeth", and conducted a quiz on the same topic. Other articles read were; "Sugar and Dental Care", "Case for Better and Cheaper Steaks in 1955", and "Legal Status of Women". *Kazabazua* had a talk by Dr. Kearns on "The Heart and Ways to Protect It". Suggestions for keeping young were heard. A donation was sent to Mr. Wm. McGuire for welfare work. *Lakeview* heard a report of the V.O.N. meeting given by Mrs. R. Gendron and \$7 was donated to the St. Vincent de Paul Society. *Wakefield* heard a debate on Re-armament of Germany. Participants were; Dr. Stuart Geggie, Mr. J. Gnaedinger for the affirmative, and Mr. Ross Shouldice and Mr. P. Trouhey the negative. The affirmative won. Clothing and food were collected for fire victims and a needy family and \$25 voted to the Boy Scouts. *Wright* has just celebrated its 16th anniversary. The branch has one life member and nine charter members. The county president, Mrs. Hopkins, was a guest and gave a reading, "Opportunity of Life", and a poem, "Another Year". Donations were; \$25 to Gatineau Memorial Hospital, \$20 to Kazabazua School Fair, \$10 and a box of clothing to Save the Children.

Jacques Cartier: *Ste. Annes* is planning to join with neighbouring branches in Vaudreuil for their annual county meeting. Visits are made to Ste. Annes Military Hospital.

Missisquoi: *Cowansville* had as special guest the county president, Mrs. J. A. David. *Dunham* also entertained Mrs. David. A paper on "Mentally Retarded Children" was read and \$5 donated to the Red Cross. *Fordyce* members brought in baby clothes for Sweetsburg Hospital and Mr. John Sharp, chairman of the Board of Directors of that Hospital, who was present at the meeting, was given a check for \$120 for the purchase of a mobile commode chair for the hospital, a gift from the

branch (see picture). *Stanbridge East* heard papers on "Provincial Health Program" and "How to Live Longer and be More Healthy", given by the convenor of Welfare and Health. Two card parties held at homes of members netted \$28.25 and \$10 was voted for hot lunches at school. The report of the radio listening group was read and forwarded.

Montcalm: *Rawdon* held a card party, with refreshments and prizes donated by members and friends. Mrs. Taylor, Red Cross convenor, reported that seven pairs of socks, 123 girls' sweaters and 469 articles of sewing had been sent to the Red Cross.

Papineau: *Lochaber* reports a busy annual meeting. "Polyanna" names were exchanges again this year.

Pontiac: *Bristol* members have volunteered to assist with lunch hour at the High School. A quilt is to be sold, proceeds to be used for the Community Hall and a committee was appointed to purchase dishes for the Hall. Clothing and \$10 were donated to Save the Children and \$1 per member paid to Q.W.I. Service Fund. A contest was held and Irish jokes told. *Clarendon* donated \$10 to Can. National Institute for Blind, \$10 to Hurricane Flood Relief, \$10 to Save the Children and food parcels were given to Pontiac Community Hospital. Aprons were



J. H. Woodside is pictured above, as he presents the Ascot Women's Institute with a Union Jack in memory of his wife, Janie Ableson, who was a valued member of this branch. Accepting the flag during the monthly meeting of the Institute, held in the Lennoxville Experimental Station conference room, is Mrs. A. D. Savage, vice-president of the group, acting in the absence of the president, Mrs. Lorne Butler.

sold for the Q.W.I. Service Fund donation and a food sale brought \$49.30. The convenor of Education, Mrs. A. Dagg, entertained the staffs of Shawville Public and High School at her home. *Elmside's* program centered around Health Week and a donation was made for TB seals. A discussion was held on the UN and a membership taken out in the UN Association of Canada. UNICEF cards are to be purchased. There was a display of handwork done during the winter months. *Quyón* is looking forward to a course in hat remodelling. A contest, unscrambling names of Canadian cities, was enjoyed and \$18 voted to the Q.W.I. Service Fund. At *Shawville*, Mr. Trecartin, superior of schools in Pontiac, was guest speaker with a talk on "Education". An auction sale of aprons donated by members was held and \$100 donated to Pontiac Hospital for permanent equipment. *Wyman* discussed plans for Fair exhibits, also for county annual meeting. A food parcel was sent to a needy person, \$5 donated the Red Cross and \$2 to the TB Association.

Rouville: *Abbotsford* heard Mr. M. Dunsmore, principal Granby High School, talk on "Modern Ways of Teaching". Several card parties have been held bringing in \$30.40 to the funds.



Some of the members of the Fordyce W.I. Left to right, front row: Mrs. Moore, Mrs. Dougall, Mrs. Syberg, Mrs. Bowling, Mrs. Hooper, Mrs. Dustin. Back row: Mrs. Lewis, Mrs. Stowe, Mrs. David, Mrs. Dryden, Miss Jones, Mrs. Bureau, Mrs. Longeway.

Richmond: *Cleveland* entertained the county president, Mrs. Paige, who spoke on W.I. work and conducted a quiz on its history. A contest on cookies was held, the cookies sent later to the Wales Home. A wheel chair is to be purchased for this Home. *Denison's Mills* is reviewing old minute books to obtain material for the "Memory Book". *Gore* had short talks on hints for home safety and realized \$40 from the sale of cards. *Melbourne Ridge* heard two papers by the convenor of Welfare and Health, Mrs. Otis Fowler. These were, "Mental Health" and "Eskimo Children". Mrs. Nelson, Citizenship convenor, read a letter from the English pen pal. A contest,

with prizes, was held on the subject of Cancer. The School Fair will be held as usual and two other projects being considered are a roadside picnic site and a trip. *Richmond Hill* held a spelling bee and a contest on an article made from a yard of cloth. Blankets are being made for Korea. *Richmond YWI* held a contest on waist measurement with prizes for largest and smallest. Two memberships in the CAC were renewed. A gift was sent to a bride, a party netted \$22.70 and \$10 was spent for a needy family. Proceeds from an end table were \$19.20. *Spooner Pond* held a display of quilt blocks, the quilt to be sold later. The prize for the best block was won by Mrs. F. Wallace. Mitts have been made from donated wool. *Windsor Mills* had as guest speaker, Dr. Fontaine, who gave a talk on "Heart Disease and High Blood Pressure".

Sherbrooke: *Ascot* was presented with a silk flag, with staff and stand, by Mr. J. H. Woodside in memory of his late wife, a W.I. member for many years. A button hole contest took place with first and second prizes. Two woolen blankets, obtained from the sale of old woolens, and a sum of money are being sent to Greece. The group enjoyed a trip to La Tribune newspaper plant and visited the local broadcasting stations. A party was held for members, their families and friends. *Belvidere* saw a television demonstration by Edith Webber on special shape party cake, with recipe given. Recipes for Queen Elizabeth cake were sold by the Home Economics convenor, adding \$2.25 to the treasury. The cake was on exhibition and sampled at lunch time. Money was voted for a crate of oranges for the Cecil Memorial Home, also flannellette to be made up. Members assisted at the Cancer Dressing Society one afternoon and \$5 was voted the Blind Campaign. *Brompton Road* heard articles on "What We Can Do To Help Our Schools" and "Sending Parcels Overseas". Other readings were "The Ten Mistakes of Parents" and "There Are No Verdun Patients Forgotten". Several donations are reported: \$3.58 to the European adoptee, \$8.96 county bursary for nurse, \$25 to Q.W.I. Service Fund, \$15 to Miss Irma Arberry for passing Junior exams, \$10 to Flambeau Mission and \$10 to Cecil Memorial Home. *Lennoxville* heard a talk on "Woodworking as a Hobby" by Mr. Terriault, and an article entitled, "Indians in Canada" was read. The six-year old outfit was sent in for the Tweedsmuir Competition (another prize winner). *Milby's* guest speaker was Mr. C. Catchpaw of the Sherbrooke Daily Record, whose talk was "The Newspaper Story". Books were brought in for the lending library among members. Mrs. W. T. Evans to act as librarian. Three members helped at the Cancer Dressing Society.

Stanstead: *Ayer's Cliff* had short talks on Ceylon. Two members are to visit a needy family and the W.I. is to supply two quarts of milk daily for a month. The "Notice Box" in the district is to be supervised by the

W.I. Donations of \$10 were voted to each of the following: Save the Children, Red Cross, Blind Campaign. *Beebe* has chosen a committee to approach the Town Council re pasteurization of milk in this community. The sum of \$10 was voted to Save the Children Fund. *Hatley* voted money to help defray expense of cod liver oil at school and gave \$5 to the Red Cross. *Hatley Centre*, the new branch, now has 17 members. The county president, Mrs. G. E. LeBaron, was guest at the last meeting, giving a talk on "Work and Aims of W.I." A card party netted \$10. *Minton* had the usual busy meeting and is making plans for the year. *North Hatley* discussed the preparation of names for the County Memory Book. *Stanstead North* had Dr. White as speaker, with his topic, "What to do in Minor Contagious Diseases". A gift was presented to the retiring president. *Tomifobia* prepared the branch history for the Q.W.I. office, and took its turn with the county broadcast over station WIKE, Newport, Vt. A salad tea and food sale was held, a box of clothing sent to the Cecil Memorial Home, \$15 voted for hot lunches at Sunnyside School and \$14 to the Q.W.I. Service Fund. *Way's Mills* held a benefit dance for a hospitalized boy. A carton of new and used clothing, also sheets, were sent to Cecil Memorial Home, and a parcel of linen to the Cancer Society. Gifts were sent to Cross in Hand W.I., England. "Early Days on Nigger River", was the topic of the broadcast from this branch for the Newport station.

Vaudreuil: *Cavagnal* held a busy meeting with excellent reports. *Harwood* awarded \$120 in bursaries and prizes to local students, and four medals for musical proficiency. One outstanding achievement of the year was the formation of the *Harwood Singers*. The Painting-for-Pleasure class has also been continued and three paintings from this group were submitted to the Tweedsmuir Competition. (One receiving honourable mention).



Mrs. M. Lewis, president of the Fordyce W.I., presents a cheque to Mr. John Sharp, Chairman, Board of Directors, Sweetsburg Hospital. The money is to be used for a mobile commode for the hospital.

Office Doings

Have you a hobby? A "Golden Age Hobby Show" is being held June 2-4, 1955, in the auditorium of the Sun Life Building, Montreal, sponsored by the Montreal Council of Social Agencies and the Rotary Club. Anyone 60 years or over, residing within 60 miles of Montreal, may compete. Any type of exhibit, demonstrating any kind of skill (but not for advertising or commercial purpose) may be entered. If older members, in branches near Montreal, are interested more details can be obtained by writing the Q.W.I. office.

Information on financial aid to intending teachers is in the Q.W.I. office. Are members aware that high school or college graduates in the province of Quebec, who intend to teach in the Protestant schools of the province, and who can show promise of becoming competent teachers, may obtain an interest-free loan from the Provincial Association of Protestant Teachers? Lists of scholarships and bursaries from the P.A.P.T. and various other sources are available. Perhaps you can interest more of your young people in taking up teaching if you can tell them of these aids. A list will be sent to any Institute upon request.

A theme for the 1956 Triennial Conference of the Associated Country Women of the World has been selected. This is, "What is the work that lies before us as members of A.C.W.W.?" Many suggestions for a theme had been received at the London office. These were narrowed down to three and this final choice was made at the last ACWW executive meeting. It was felt this gave most scope to constituent societies.

We are warned not to sign a petition headed, "Appeal Against the Preparation for Atomic War". It is a disarming title but is simply another device of Communist propaganda. It should be ignored.

A second film strip has been made by the A.C.W.W. "Getting to Know You". You have likely seen the publicity about this in the press. It has been ordered and can be loaned from the Q.W.I. office (when it comes) by any Institute, at no cost but return postage. This also applies to the first filmstrip, "Introducing A.C.W.W.", which is here. Please note these are film *strips*, not films; there has been some confusion about this.

Don't forget, FACTS! FINGERS! FUN!, May 23-27. Attendance again is limited to 40. All Institutes have received programs. Study them carefully and get your application in by the deadline date, May 12th.

"Cooperation is the means by which free men solve problems or tackle jobs too big for the individual. Farmer cooperatives are an essential device for maintaining the independent family farm. We will not let them be endangered. We shall aid farmers to strengthen their own institutions."

—President Dwight Eisenhower



THE COLLEGE PAGE

The Macdonald Clam

Notes and News of Staff Members and Former Students

Assembly Includes Diploma Graduation

The Annual Assembly used to be held early in the session, as soon as possible after the Diploma Course students had registered. On this occasion the Principal pays an official visit to the College, gives a talk to the students, and presents the prizes and medals that were won during the previous session.

Then, when the War Memorial Addresses were started, it was thought that this Memorial function should come as close to Remembrance Day as possible, so, to make room for it in November, the Annual Assembly was moved forward until after the first term examinations. This year, for a number of reasons, it was not possible to hold it until March 31st.

But this late date, although it seems rather odd to be awarding prizes that had been won almost a year before, had one advantage, for it made it possible to combine the Assembly with graduation exercises for the Diploma Course graduates, who had finished their examinations the day before. Last year the Diploma boys graduated at a special dinner attended by the Principal; after the meal their diplomas and prizes were presented and they went through the usual programme of class history, class prophecy, and so forth.

This year a dinner was held on March 30th, attended by the graduates, a few staff members, and representatives of the other classes and of student organizations, followed by a full-dress graduation the next night.

There were sixteen in the graduating class, and most received diplomas. The class was considerably larger than this when they started out together in the first year, but for good and sufficient reasons many of them found that they could not return to complete the course. Of the sixteen, one came from Germany, one from Poland, one from Switzerland and one from the Dutch West Indies, while the rest were Quebec boys. They were a serious and hard-working group and each of them deserved his success in the course.

Mr. Jean Charles Magnan, Director of Agricultural Education for the Quebec Department of Agriculture, was a guest at the graduation exercises and presented the

Department awards; the Minister of Agriculture's medals for the student standing highest in the Fruit and in the Livestock options, and a special prize offered to the student who has made the best all-round contribution during his two years at the College, through his industry in classroom work, his participation in activities of all kinds, and his attitude toward his classmates and members of the staff. These were won by Messrs. F. H. Haase, Montreal, W. R. Elliot, Howick, and M. Waldron, East Clifton. The La Ferme Prize for the best project was won by George Pirie of Maryland.

In Memoriam

News of the death of "Ernie" Mutton, for many years the College Librarian, has saddened the College community. Mr. Mutton, who retired from active duties in the Library in 1947, was killed in a traffic accident in Miami on March 22nd.

Born in England, Mr. Mutton came to Canada as a young man and found employment with Chapman's Bookstore from 1911 until he enlisted with the Canadian Expeditionary Force in 1916. He served overseas until 1919 and, returning to Canada on receiving his discharge, entered the Library School of the University of Toronto. On completing his course he came to Macdonald College, where he remained, in charge of the Library, until he retired.

He was, in his leisure time, a devotee of golf and tennis, was an accomplished pianist and organist, and an expert photographer; many of his prints have appeared in College publications. His collection of colour photographs, taken in the course of his travels since his retirement, is outstanding.

To his sister in England and his brother in the United States, we offer our deep sympathy.

FARM FORUM

— NEWS and VIEWS —

by R. J. McDonell
Provincial Secretary

Why Reorganize?

An ardent supporter of Farm Forum and former president, Mr. Stuart Armstrong of the Lachute Road Forum in Argenteuil asked a pertinent question recently which must be in the minds of many forum members.

"Please tell me why we need another organization? You have evaded answering this long enough."

For the past few months a special guide, Greenleafs, meetings, radio and press have been used to publicize a proposed reorganization of the Quebec Farm Forum Association.

One of the proposals suggested was the renaming of the farm organizational activities of the Quebec Farm Forum Association. The proposed name was the Quebec Farmers Association.

The name Quebec Farm Forum Association has been the cause of considerable embarrassment to our two national affiliates, the Canadian Federation of Agriculture and the National Farm Radio Forum.

On the one hand the Canadian Federation of Agriculture granted the Quebec Farm Forum Association a seat on their board to represent Quebec's English speaking farmers since no other representative body existed. It is a recognition given to no other provincial Farm Forum group although in two provinces at least Farm Forum represents more farmers than it does in Quebec.

In a recent letter about the proposed Quebec Farmers Association, a director of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture said, "I hope this means that a move is on foot to separate the name of "Forum" from your policy organization and call it the Quebec Farmers Association. I think you know there is considerable comment in connection with your group associating the word "Forum" with an organization that makes farm policy. The fear is that this might create a demand on the part of certain interests for curtailment of forum programs by C.B.C." As a sponsor of Farm Radio Forum the C.F.A. has a vital interest in this.

On the other hand the policy of National Farm Radio Forum is and always has been to present all sides of a problem as a basis for discussion and education. Action and pressures, except of a strictly local nature, have been strictly avoided. On the basis of a discussion and education movement and that alone the National Farm Forum solicits and obtains support from public bodies (the

Canadian Broadcasting Corporation and the Canadian Association of Adult Education.) For the same purpose the provincial association receives a large grant from the Quebec government.

As an action group under the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, the Quebec Farm Forum Association is out of line with National Farm Radio Forum policy.

The second reason for reorganizing under the name of the Quebec Farmers Association for the farm organizational activities of the present Quebec Farm Forum Association is to provide a means by which a larger proportion of the English speaking farmers of Quebec can be brought into these activities.

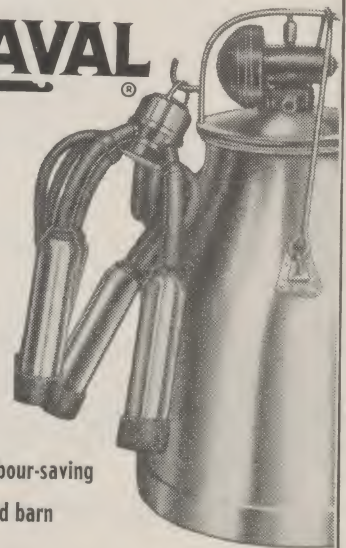
As has been pointed out in the article "Report to the Members" farm organization at the top level has drained off an excessively high proportion of the talents and finances of the Quebec Farm Forum Association. The only logical solution to this problem seems to be a spread of cost of these farm organization activities over a larger number of farmers. Since pressures of other activities make it impossible for many farmers to participate in the whole Forum program, their support must be sought in other ways.

It never was and I am sure never will be the thought of Farm Forum leaders to supplant Farm Forum. The proposed reorganization of the Quebec Farm Forum Association has as its sole aim the more effective use of Farm Forum.

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